

**MEETING MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE THATCHER TOWN COUNCIL
March 20, 2023**

Councilmembers present: Mayor Bryce, Vice Mayor Howard, Councilman Welker, Councilman Vining, Councilman Carlton, Councilman McEuen

Councilmembers absent: Councilwoman Smith

Staff present: Town Manager Heath Brown, Town Attorney Matt Clifford, Police Chief Shaffen Woods, Town Engineer Tom Palmer, Interim Fire Chief Steve Curtis, Town Clerk Annie Reidhead, Procurement Officer Gary Allred

Visitors: Board Supervisor John Howard, Vance Bryce (Chamber of Commerce), Lance Henrie (City of Safford)

Welcome and Call Meeting to Order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Bryce and he stated that this is a public meeting of the Thatcher Town Council. He stated that we do have a quorum.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Chief Woods.

AGENDA

1. **PUBLIC HEARING:** None
2. **OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC:** None
3. **PUBLIC APPEARANCES:** None
4. **CONSENT AGENDA:** Action Item
 - A. Approve Minutes of the November 21, 2022, Regular Council Meeting.
 - B. Planning and Zoning Monthly Report.
 - C. Police Monthly Report.
 - D. Approval of Invoices.
 - E. Financial Reports.

Councilmember Carlton made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and seconded by Vice Mayor Howard . Motion carried unanimously.

5. **OLD BUSINESS:** None
6. **NEW BUSINESS:** Discussion, consideration and possible action

- A. Magistrate Appointment – Merri Aden

Mr. Brown stated that the Magistrate Appointment and Deputy Magistrate Appointment is a two year appointment. Staff recommends the reappointment of both.

Councilmember Carlton made a motion to approve the appointment of Merri Aden as Magistrate for a 2 year term and seconded by Councilmember McEuen. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Deputy Magistrate Appointment – Ned Rhodes

Councilmember Carlton made a motion to approve the appointment of Ned Rhodes as Deputy Magistrate for a 2 year term and seconded by Vice Mayor Howard. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Contract Award for Logan Simpson Design for the Herb Winsor Ball Park Improvements and Slope Enhancements \$33,602

Mr. Brown stated that Logan Simpson Design is the landscape architect firm that has been working on the Red Lamp property. They have done some conceptual design on the slope improvements at the ball fields all the way around to the splash park. Mr. Brown presented the designs and explained that this contract would allow the firm to bring the designs to a close and provide them to the Town. Mr. Brown would like to discuss the actual construction at the upcoming work session meeting. Mr. Palmer stated that the Town went through the RFQ process to acquire Logan Simpson Design as an on call design firm.

Vice Mayor Howard made a motion to award the contract with Logan Simpson Design for the Herb Winsor Ball Park Improvements in the amount of \$33,602 and seconded by Councilmember Carlton. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Contract for - **Town of Thatcher, FY 2023, Prosecution and Imprisonment for Border-Related Crimes.** Reimbursement Grant - Not to Exceed \$629,500.

Mr. Brown stated that this is a beneficial grant and will need council's approval before moving forward. The Town will have to front the monies and then it would be reimbursed. Mr. Brown referred to Chief Woods on the items that the grant would fund. Chief Woods stated that this grant is to be used for border related crimes such as drug smuggling and human trafficking. The grant suggest the following items with amounts: \$175,000 for overtime and K9 over a period of 5 years, \$3,600 for training, \$80,000 for an unmarked vehicle, \$40,000 for a portable vehicle xray machine, \$90,000 for laptops, \$124,000 for radios, and \$180,000 for subscriptions over a period of 5 years. Chief Woods mentioned that they would recycle their radios to our Fire Department.

Councilmember Carlton made a motion to approve the contract for FY 2023 Prosecution and Imprisonment for Border Related Crimes reimbursement grant not to exceed \$629,500 and seconded by Vice Mayor Howard. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Approve Purchase of 2023 Chevy Tahoe, Police Undercover Vehicle, Grant Funded, \$47,312.84, Midway Chevrolet, State Purchasing Contract Price.

Mr. Brown stated that this is one item that is being requested in the above grant for \$80,000. It is under state purchasing contract price. The vehicle is priced unfitted and it will roughly run \$20,000 to fit the vehicle.

Vice Mayor Smith made a motion to approve the purchase of the 2023 Chevy Tahoe as a Police Undercover Vehicle in the amount of \$47,312.84 from Midway Chevrolet and seconded by Councilmember McEuen. Motion carried unanimously.

7. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

A. Town Manager's Report

- Public Works Department
 - Recreation Complex
The SE corner parking lot is complete.
 - Highway Trees
The planting of the trees is completed.
 - Paving Project & Park Parking
Our crew did the prep work for the park east side parking lot and poured. The last pour was done this morning.
 - Ball Field Improvements
There has been red dirt put down and new nets have been installed.

- Porter Lane ROW Acquirement & other Drainage Projects
Staff has a verbal agreement from the Daleys for the ROW.
- Employee Benefits Summary
A summary sheet was presented to the council with the requested information.
- Brooklyn Angle Scholarship
The GFOAZ (Government Finance Officers of Arizona) has awarded a internship/scholarship to Brooklyn Angle for \$5,000. The Town will also receive \$6,000 to host the internship. This will began in May and is a 10 week program.
- Town Council Photo – March 30, @ 5:30 PM – Business Attire
- Budget Worksession – April 4, @ 6:00 PM, Dinner Provided
- Walking Path Water Stations
There hasve been 2 stations installed, one at the bottom of the hill on Reay Lane and one on the north side of Daley Estates.
- Financial Summary
January and February electric bills were paid in the month of February
- Police Department
- Fire Department
One of our fire fighters attended the Fire Fighter 1 & 2 training provided by Safford Fire Department.

B. Council Reports

Vice Mayor Howard asked if we provide building inspections on Friday. Mr. Palmer stated that Alan Bryce (Planning & Building Administrator) is available to do inspections on Friday. He is working with the contractors to give him notice on Thursday afternoons if a Friday inspection is needed.

8. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS & POTENTIAL QUORUM'S**

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 p.m. by Mayor Bryce.

APPROVED:

Heath Brown, Town Manager

Randy Bryce, Mayor

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Thatcher held on this 20th day of March. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Annie Reidhead, Deputy Clerk